



## Planning a Wedding? Style First, Venue Second

By *Alexandra McKay*, Morven Park's Event Coordinator and resident advisor on all things etiquette. Alex is the site coordinator for all Park events including weddings, corporate picnics, and private parties. Events she has worked have been covered by *The Scout Guide of Hunt Country Blog*, *Middleburg Life*, *United with Love*, and *Washingtonian* magazine. Alex is a graduate of *Randolph-Macon Woman's College* (now *Randolph College*), where she studied *History and British and American Literature*. In her spare time, she works on her *calligraphy skills* and plans elaborate parties for friends and family.

According to the wedding planning website [WeddingWire.com](http://WeddingWire.com), 40 percent of engagements occur between Thanksgiving Day and Valentine's Day. This means that you or someone you know may be the owner of a new ring (Yay!) and are looking for a wedding venue. The venue is usually one of the first items that engaged couples check off their wedding planning list because it establishes the feel and style for the entire event.

So...before you start looking at venues...determine your style. Listed below are a few popular wedding styles. Don't limit yourself to this list however, as there are many more style options out there. If you don't see "you" in any of the styles described here, jump on Pinterest and start searching!

**Classic Wedding** – If you have always imagined ballgowns, tuxedos, a tower of champagne, and white peonies, then you are a classic couple.

**Romantic Garden Wedding** – If the wedding of your dreams is filled with flowers, twinkle lights, pastels, and sheer fabrics, then a romantic garden wedding is for you.

**Rustic Wedding** – If your Pinterest board is filled with barns, farm tables, bluegrass bands, bridesmaids in sundresses, and mason jars, then you prefer a rustic wedding.

**Vintage Wedding** – When describing your wedding, if you use a costume drama as a point of reference (*Downton Abbey*, *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*, *The Great Gatsby*), then you are planning a vintage wedding.



*A couple at Morven Park's Reflecting Pool*



*Table setting from a Morven Park wedding (Credit: Michelle Lindsay)*

**Whimsical Wedding** – Are you sick of blush and ballgowns? Are you planning on bright colors, balloons and streamers, and maybe mismatched chairs? Then you will be having a whimsical wedding.

**Modern Wedding** – If your dream wedding involves greenery, geometric shapes, and sans-serif typeface, then you are a modern couple.

When looking at your venue options, make sure that your venue matches your style. For example, mason jars and burlap in a gilded ballroom may not mesh. Likewise, a classic champagne tower will seem out of place in a barn.

Morven Park serves as the perfect venue for Romantic Garden Wedding types, with a ceremony in the Magnolia Gardens and the reception in a white tent on the Croquet Lawn; or for Classic Wedding couples, holding the ceremony on the Mansion Portico and a reception in the Gardens; or the trendy Vintage Wedding, with a Mansion Portico ceremony and Coach House Reception.

Check out [Morven Park's 2019 Wedding Lookbook](#) for additional information including pricing, preferred vendors, and frequently asked questions.

To schedule a tour of the Park's wedding locations, contact Event Coordinator Alexandra Love McKay at [Events@MorvenPark.org](mailto:Events@MorvenPark.org). Tours are available Monday through Friday, and by appointment on the second Sunday of each month.